# The Book of 1 John Lesson 12

1 John 2:15-17

“Love Not the World”

Introduction: There have been times in our life as children when we felt like we had to have something so bad that we could not be happy without it. Our parents or some authority refused to allow us to have it or take part in that certain thing that seemed so important. Although it may have seemed that they did not love us, truly it was their love for us that caused them to forbid it. In the same sense, we are the “little children” of God and there is that which our Father forbids, because He knows what is good for us and He knows what is not good for us. In His perfect love and wisdom, He knows what is best. He forbids us to love the world. This is a commandment of where to and where not to place our affection, and it is given motivated by love.

He has made it clear that we should not have affection for that which is appealing to the natural man and which is not in accord to the Word of God. Don’t love what we are inclined by nature to love, because it is contrary to God. The way of the Father and the way of the world are contrary. They do not mesh together for a unique way of life. God has given us a natural outline of what governs a life of someone who is not under submission to the authority of God and His Word.

I. The Lust of the Flesh

A. All that panders to our fleshly appetite.

1. Giving your flesh whatever it desires.

2. We should not follow the natural desires of the flesh.

a. Physical Intimacy is a normal human desire.

b. It has been placed there by God in His wisdom.

c. God made us physical beings with desires.

3. We should not love the gratification of the physical appetite which is outside the boundaries of the revealed will of God.

a. This includes adultery, fornication, lasciviousness.

b. Outside of the realm of marriage, physical intimacy (sexual) experience is of the world and is sin.

B. Engaging in idolatry.

1. Whether worship of other gods or self-worship.

a. One who justifies himself in having hatred.

b. One who believes he is justified in having envy.

c. One who justifies bitterness and jealousy.

d. The result of one who lives for and unto himself.

2. Having an attitude contrary to God’s Word.

a. Refusing to forgive is not of God.

b. Revenge is the attitude of the world.

c. That is the world and is not of the Father.

3. Self indulgence is nothing more than riotous living.

a. Drugs and the need for pharmaceutical assistance.

b. Drunkenness is all around us so that Christians are trying to justify drinking alcohol like the world.

C. The works of the flesh are the works of the flesh.

1. We are wicked when our spirit is wrong just as when an adulterer, sodomite, or fornicator sins.

2. No matter how strong you profess to be a Christian or how long you have been in church.

3. The way of the world is expected outside of the house of God and not from God’s children.

4. The Bible does not put approval on taking part in the things of the world, but the world sure does.

II. The Lust of the Eyes

A. That spirit which can see nothing without wishing to acquire it, and having acquired it, flaunts it.

1. This is a weakness in humanity.

2. Millions spent to commercialize things we do not need.

a. What you see that you want, get it...you owe it to yourself.

1) When Eve saw the tree...

2) When David looked upon Bathsheba...

3) When Aachan saw the garment and silver and gold.

b. Find a way to get it no matter what it costs you or what it costs anyone else.

c. We live in a debt-ridden society, because the devil is at work appealing to the lust of the eyes.

d. There are people that are governed by getting what they see that they want.

B. Unable to obey in tithing nor commit to Faith Promise.

1. Not because they do not see the importance or the truth.

2. But because they are so strapped financially from latching on to what they want they cannot afford to give.

III. The Pride of Life

A. The pride of life can be defined as anything that is “of the world,” meaning anything that leads to arrogance, ostentation, pride in self, presumption, and boasting.  
 1. It is inherit with being a human being.

a. anything that exalts us above our station and offers the illusion of God-like qualities, wherein we boast in arrogance and worldly wisdom.  
b. We are all plagued with it.

c. It is wicked and of the world.

2. We desire to look favorable to others.

b. We want people to ask us about how well our business, family, or career is doing.

c. We desire to stretch the truth to make things better than they really are.

1) People on cell phones.

2) People at restaurants.

3) Resumes filled with extra fluffy air.

3. This is of the one who is the god of this world.

a. Under his influence.

b. Wherever you see the devil at work, you will see the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

B. Do not love the world and plug into that system.

1. We do not have to do everything our flesh craves.

a. Just find the will of God within the boundaries of God’s will.

b. Know peace and true joy.

2. We do not have to have everything we see.

a. God has promised to provide us with everything we need.

b. We should be content with such things as we have.

3. We do not have to always look good.

a. We try to look good for people we don’t know.

b. Most of whom we try to impress we do not even like.

C. Just say, “I love the world” if you are not going to obey...

1. The world passes away.

2. The system of unbelief will fade through the judgment of God upon the world system that has rejected Him.

Conclusion: everyone is going to come when they will say “ I put too much emphasis on the fleshly appetite and the physical experience. Too much on having things I wanted and how much possessions I had. I placed too much on status and position and rank and my appearance.”